Scarcity of Drinking Water

845. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE e pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute rinking water scarcity has gripped illages in most parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in his regard;

(c) what are the main reasons for scarcity of drinking water; and

(d) what remedial measures have been taken by Government in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Most parts of the country are not facing drinking water problems.

(b) However, drinking water scarcity was reported in certain areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and parts of Uttar Pradesh due to delayed monsoon.

(c) Scarcity of drinking water emerges due to inadequate rainfall, inadequate recharging of underground aquifer and evaporation loss in surface reservoirs as well as due to unbalanced use of underground water for irrigation industries and urban demands viz-a-viz demands for rural areas.

(d) Apart from normal assistance under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central assistance in the form of advance plan and non-plan financial assistance for drought relief including for meeting drinking water scarcity is given to the affected States. Ceilings of expenditure approved by the Central Government under Drought Relief for drinking water sector to affected States are shown in the statement given below:

Statement

(Rs. crores)

Sl. No.	State	1986-87	1987-88
1	Andhra Pradesh	15.11	3.40
2	Assam	0.41	—
3	Gujarat	51.06	9.27
4	Haryana	1.76	—
5	Karnataka	20.50	6.77
6	Kerala	3.65	6.10
7	Madhya Pradesh	8.05	1.97
8	Maharashtra	57.33	11.19
9	Rajasthan	40.55	17.59
10	Tamil Nadu	14.82	19.86
11	Goa	—	0.29
12	Uttar Pradesh	3.66	—
	TOTAL:	216.90	69.67